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DEPARTMENT FOR DRL, SCA AND EAP/ANP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/16/2018
TAGS: [KDEM](#) [PGOV](#) [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [AS](#)
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN CONTRIBUTION TO AFGHAN ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 108855

Classified By: Deputy Political Counselor John W. Crowley for reasons 1
.4(b) and (d)

(C/NF) Australia is proposing to contribute \$5.0M (USD \$3.3M) for the Afghan elections, according to Jon Merrill, Director, Afghanistan Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Merrill identified contributions of approximately \$3.0M (USD \$2.0M) to UNDP for a voter registration program and \$2.0M (USD \$1.3M) to the Asia Foundation for public outreach and civic education in Oruzgan Province. Both contributions are yet to be confirmed by the Foreign Minister and the GOA is also waiting for details from UNAMA planning to define specific details. Merrill indicated that these contributions are expected to be only the first tranche, as the GOA recognizes election support as a key priority. He also advised that the GOA is exploring possible technical assistance through the Australian Election Commission, but that he expects security conditions will prevent delivery of that assistance.

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